Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047188 ORIGIN ORM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO MR JOHN E MCCARTHY CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
NO. 200 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10003
INFO INS WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 047188

INS WASHDC FOR MR JAMES GREENE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: HAITIAN EMIGRATION

1. REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM OF FEBRUARY 23 REGARDING YOUR REQUEST THAT PERMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT BE AUTHORIZED FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN THE U.S. PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1976 AND WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM ARE PENDING WITH THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. AS YOU ARE AWARE, DECISIONS REGARDING ASYLUM REST WITH INS. ADDITIONALLY, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED WHILE AN ASYLUM APPLICATION IS PENDING AGAIN RESTS WITH THAT SERVICE. I SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOT TREATED APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM FROM HAITIAN NATIONALS

ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN ASYLUM APPLICATIONS FROM NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AND DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. EACH CASE IS REVIEWED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS. IN CASES WHERE WE FIND THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE DOUBT AS TO WHETHER INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR ASYLUM WOULD SUFFER PERSECUTION UPON RETURN TO HIS HOMELAND, WE DO RECOMMEND TO INS THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES AS A REFUGEE AND HAVE DONE SO IN OVER 240

HAITIAN ASYLUM CASES.

- 3. IN REFERENCE TO THE HAITIAN CASES INVOLVED IN THE FEBRUARY 15 DECISION OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT, DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED THOSE APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM. BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THEIR ASYLUM APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT WAS UNABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THESE APPLICANTS HAD ESTABLISHED A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF PERSECUTION WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE UN CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES. WE, THEREFORE, SEE NO REASON WHY EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THESE ALIENS BEYOND THAT WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO ANY OTHER NON-RESIDENT ALIEN IN THE UNITED STATES.
- 4. IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN HANDLING ASYLUM REQUESTS HAVE PROVED ADEQUATE IN DEALING WITH SUCH REQUESTS. THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR CAN APPROVE MERITORIOUS OR WORTHY ASYLUM REQUESTS WITHOUT REFERRAL TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE. CASES REFERRED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT ARE THOSE IN WHICH THERE ARE DOUBTS REGARDING THE MERITS OF THE CLAIM OR THOSE WHICH ARE CONSIDERED LACKING IN SUBSTANCE. A GOOD MANY CLAIMS FALLING WITHIN LATTER TWO CATEGORIES WERE SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO DELAY DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES. AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT TO SUCH INDIVIDUALS WHILE THEIR ASYLUM APPLICATIONSARE BEING REVIEWED WOULD ONLY EN-COURAGE THE SUBMISSION OF FRIVOLOUS CLAIMS. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, IF APPREHENDED, EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED MERELY BY REQUESTING ASYLUM COULD, THEREFORE, HAVE A TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE BY UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR SHOULD CONTINUE TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM ASYLUM APPLICANTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS AND ARE CON-FIDENT THAT SUCH AUTHORIZATION WILL BE GIVEN FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS IN THOSE TRULY WORTHY CASES AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE CASE.

5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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